

DRAWINGS

A Replacement Sheet of Figure 1 have been included, wherein the following text has been added:

“I₂, and optionally an N₂ or He carrier.”

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 29-56 have been withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 1, 9, 14, and 23 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Restriction Requirement and Drawings

Figures 4 and 5 had been previously withdrawn from reconsideration. However, Applicants seek to reintroduce Figures 4 and 5. MPEP §809.02(c) reads as follows:

“[w]hen a generic claim is subsequently found to be allowable, and not more than a reasonable number of additional species are claimed, treatment shall be as follows... [w]hen all claims to each of the additional species are embraced by an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, applicant must be advised of the allowable generic claim and that claims drawn to the nonelected species are no longer withdrawn since they are fully embraced by the allowed generic claim.”

Applicants now believe that Claims 1, as amended, is generic where all claims to each of the species are embraced by Claims 1, and Applicants assert that the three species at least constitute a reasonable number of species. Additionally, for at least the reasons mentioned above Claim 1, as amended, is believed to also be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Figures 4 and 5 as applied to any of Claims 1-28 be considered, where these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Because FIGURES 4 and 5 have been reintroduced, items 1-5, 7-10, and 13-15 are depicted in FIGS. 4 and 5; therefore, the objections for items 1-5, 7-10, and 13-15 are moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings for items 1-5, 7-10, and 13-15 be withdrawn.

Regarding items 6, 11, and 12, Applicants have amended the FIGURE 1 to include the missing features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the drawings for items 6, 11, and 12 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections have been overcome.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitation from the preamble into the body of the claim. Therefore, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Claims 14 and 23 have been amended to correct terms that lack a proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the rejections of Claim 14 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 18, 20, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,625,008 by Crook ("Crook"). Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 26, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,315,221 by Goenka et al. ("Goenka"). Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,613,999 by Sher et al. ("Sher"). Claims 7, 9, 15-17, 19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Goenka. Claims 5 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Sher. Insofar as they may be applied against the Claims, these rejections have been overcome.

Rejected independent Claim 1 as now amended more particularly recites one of the distinguishing characteristics of the present invention, namely, “a symmetric two dimensional minimum length nozzle having a curved sonic line, a throat, and an exit plane[,] and at least one iodine injection strut that is located downstream of the throat.” Support for this Amendment can be found, among other places, Claim 1 (namely the preamble) as originally filed.

Neither Crook, Goenka, or Sher teach, disclose, or suggest an iodine injection strut in combination with a minimum length nozzle for use in a laser. Crook discloses a variable C-D nozzle for use in propulsive thrust engine (i.e. turbojet or turbofan). Goenka discloses a nozzle having exit ports for material such as paint, and Sher discloses an atomizing nozzle which evenly disperses fluid into a flow. None of these references, singularly or in combination, disclose the use of a minimum length nozzle or MLN, let alone an MLN that forms a laser cavity and includes an iodine injection strut. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or §102(b) in view of Crook, Goenka, or Sher be withdrawn and that Claim 1 be allowed

Claim 2-28 depend on and further limit Claim 1. Hence, for at least the aforementioned reasons, these Claims should be deemed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of dependent Claims 2-28 also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

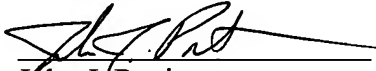
Applicant do not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-2180 of Storm LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Storm LLP

Dated: Feb. 23, 2006
Storm LLP
901 Main Street
Suite 7100
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 347-4710
Fax: (214) 347-4799


John J. Patti
Reg. No. 57,191